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August 14, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Wireline Competition Bureau Copper Retirement Network Change Notification Filed by Verizon Maryland LLC, WC Docket No. 16-351**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 25, 2017, Michael J. Marcus filed “Comments” in this docket, expressing dissatisfaction with various aspects of the battery backup unit for his Verizon fiber-based voice service. Mr. Marcus’s comments do not raise any issues regarding the copper retirement public notice that is the subject of this proceeding.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, since copper retirement is a notice-based process, comments or objections are not appropriate in this docket.

Even if the Commission were to construe Mr. Marcus’s Comments as a complaint regarding Verizon’s “PowerReserve” battery backup option, Verizon’s battery backup offer complies fully with the Commission’s *Battery Backup Order*.<sup>2</sup> Customers receive the required notices about battery backup and the option to obtain a unit if they so choose. As we have explained,<sup>3</sup> Verizon’s “PowerReserve” uses conventional D-cell batteries to provide 24 hours of backup power for voice service. Customers can easily purchase D-cell batteries in stores or online. Replacing batteries is straightforward and similar to replacement in other common household devices such as a flashlight. Verizon also provides customers with a PowerReserve battery tester so that customers can monitor the battery charge level.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Debra P. Dexter

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<sup>1</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Copper Retirement Network Change Notification filed by Verizon Maryland LLC*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 16-351, Report No. NCD-2648 (March 17, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> *See Ensuring Continuity of 911 Communications*, Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 8677, (2015) (“BBU Order”).

<sup>3</sup> *See* May 22, 2015, Verizon Ex Parte, GN Docket No. 13-5.